



ECOSTEWARDS COMMITTEE SEP 14 10:15

Montclair Presbyterian Church

Dr. Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administrator
5600 Fishers Lane, HF-1
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

As members and friends of the EcoStewards of Montclair Presbyterian Church of Oakland, California, we are concerned about food safety. As consumers, we believe we have the right to know whether or not the foods we purchase have been genetically altered.

There has been remarkably little testing of the effects of gene changes on plants and foods before these foods were put on the market and incorporated into many other food products. We believe that these plants and foods need further tests for safety and for their effects on other crops and farm environments.

One simple science experiment recently indicated that the pollen of genetically altered corn strongly affected the lives of Monarch butterflies. We need many such studies.

Since genetically altered crops pose unknown and largely unresearched risks to the environment, to our health and to family and organic farmers, they should be tested much more thoroughly before being accepted for widespread use.

In May, a lawsuit was filed challenging your policy of not requiring labels on genetically offered food. We are writing to support this lawsuit and to support European nations who want genetically-altered foods clearly labeled. We support their demands for both safety testing and complete, prominent labels.

The FDA's mandate is to protect public health and to provide clear information to consumers. Please live up to this mandate.

Sincerely,

Signatures of EcoStewards and church members continue on C5929 following page.

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Petition to label genetically-altered food

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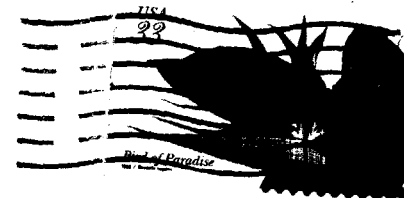
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